



PROSPECT PROFILES

 **#NHLSTATS**

The central graphic is a large red rectangle with a blue border on the left and right sides. It contains the NHL Draft Montreal 2022 logo at the top center. Below the logo, the words 'PROSPECT PROFILES' are written in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom center, there is a small NHL logo followed by the hashtag '#NHLSTATS' in a white, bold, sans-serif font.



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PROSPECT PROFILES: N.A. SKATERS



Shane Wright

No. 1-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 191 lbs

Team: Kingston (OHL)

Birthplace: Burlington, Ont.

- Ranked eighth in the OHL with 32-62—94 in 63 games during the 2021-22 regular season and averaged over a point per game during the playoffs (3-11—14 in 11 GP) including the series-clinching overtime winner in Game 6 of Round 1 versus the Oshawa Generals.
- Was granted exceptional status to enter the 2019 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection early where he was drafted first overall by the Frontenacs. He was the sixth CHL player to be granted exceptional status and [fifth OHL player to do so](#), joining **John Tavares**, **Aaron Ekblad**, **Connor McDavid** and **Sean Day**.
- Captained Team Canada to a gold medal at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship. He concluded the tournament with the highest points-per-game rate (2.80) and finished tied for second in scoring with 9-5—14 (5 GP).
- Tallied 39-27—66 in 58 games to [lead all OHL rookies in 2019-20](#) – 24 points more than the next-closest on the list, **Mason McTavish** (29-13—42 in 57 GP).
- Earned CHL and OHL Rookie of the Year honors in 2019-20 – he was the [second-youngest recipient](#) of the CHL Rookie of the Year Award behind only Tavares.
- Was named to Team Canada's entry to the 2022 World Junior Championship.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

An excellent all-around player who contributes in all areas of the game. A team captain and leader who plays heavy minutes in all situations and excels. Unselfish with exceptional hockey IQ – makes his teammates better. High-end offensive talent with an NHL shot and release who plays a two-way game with winning habits. Has potential to be a star in the NHL and become the type of player you can build a team around.

Plays Like:

Bruins forward **Patrice Bergeron**



Logan Cooley

No. 2-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 174 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Pittsburgh, Pa.

- Ranked second on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team with 27-48—75 in 51 games – his 1.47 points-per-game rate topped all skaters on the team.
- At 17 years of age, Cooley was the youngest player named to Team USA for the 2022 World Junior Championship when it was originally scheduled to start in December 2021.
- Represented his country at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship (0-2—2 in 5 GP).
- As a child, Cooley participated in **Sidney Crosby's [Little Penguins Learn to Play Program](#)**, an introductory program for children ages 5 to 9 that provided first-time participants free head-to-toe equipment along with on-ice instruction by the Penguins captain.
- Can become the highest Pennsylvania-born player to be selected in the NHL Draft – currently **R.J. Umberger** (No. 16 in 2001 by VAN).
- Committed to the University of Minnesota for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A complete player with good offensive instincts including very good puck skills and the ability to find the open space for scoring opportunities. A very good skater that uses his quickness to generate offense. Possesses a good mix of passing skill and scoring ability – smart and patient with the puck in the offensive zone. Can be shifty and creative with the puck in the offensive zone.

Plays Like:

Lightning forward **Brayden Point**



Cutter Gauthier

No. 3-ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 189 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Skelleftea, Sweden

- Ranked second on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team with 34 goals (34-31—65 in 54 GP).
- Helped Team USA earn silver at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (3-6—9 in 6 GP).
- His father, **Sean Gauthier**, was a goaltender and ninth-round pick by the original Winnipeg Jets in 1991 (181st overall) who had a 14-season professional career that included stops in the NHL, IHL, AHL, ECHL and Sweden. He was tending goal for Skelleftea in 2003-04 when Cutter was born.
- Gauthier was born in Skelleftea, Sweden, grew up in Scottsdale, Ariz. and played minor hockey in the Detroit Honeybaked program. While in Michigan, he would attend NTDP games and watch players like **Adam Fox**, **Clayton Keller** and **J.D. Greenway**.
- Committed to Boston College for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A big winger who skates well. Possesses good speed with the puck and is elusive low in the zone. Takes the puck hard to the net with an ultra-quick release. A threat every time he is on the ice. Can adapt to play a skill game or physical game with a solid compete level.

Plays Like:

Jets forward **Mark Scheifele**



Matt Savoie

No. 4-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'9"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Winnipeg (WHL)

Birthplace: St. Albert, Alta.

- Led all WHL rookies and ranked seventh in the league with 35-55—90 in 65 games to help the Winnipeg ICE top the overall league standings in 2021-22.
- Averaged more than a point per game in the 2022 WHL playoffs to help Winnipeg advance to the third round (6-6—12 in 10 GP).
- Recorded a 13-game point streak from Oct. 30 – Dec. 4, 2021 (8-17—25 in 13 GP).
- Named to USHL All-Rookie Team in 2020-21 after finishing [fifth in rookie scoring](#) with 21-17—38 (34 GP) for Dubuque.
- Skated for Canada White at the 2019 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge where he tied for the team lead in scoring with 1-5—6 (6 GP).
- His brother, **Carter**, was a fourth-round pick by the Oilers in 2020 (100th overall) and currently skates for the University of Denver.
- Named to the high school honor roll in Grades 10 and 11.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A very strong skater with a quick step and exceptional acceleration who creates separation in all areas with his speed. Displays excellent edges to elude the opposition combined with very good offensive abilities including good vision, high playmaking abilities and soft hands. Possesses a quick release from either side of the net and is difficult to contain. Can dominate a power play – a game changer on most nights.

Plays Like:

Islanders forward **Mathew Barzal**



Conor Geekie

No. 5-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'3"

Weight: 196 lbs

Team: Winnipeg (WHL)

Birthplace: Strathclair, Man.

- Averaged more than a point per game with Winnipeg of the WHL, where he ranked fourth on his team in scoring (24-46—70 in 63 GP) to help the Winnipeg ICE top the overall league standings in 2021-22.
- Helped Winnipeg advance to the third round of the WHL playoffs with 3-8—11 in 15 GP.
- Ranked second among all WHL rookies in 2020-21 with 9-14—23 (24 GP), [behind only Connor Bedard](#).
- His brother, **Morgan**, was a third-round pick by the Hurricanes in 2017 (67th overall) and currently plays for the Seattle Kraken.
- His father, **Craig**, played 213 WHL games over four seasons between the Brandon Wheat Kings and Spokane Chiefs from 1990-91 to 1993-94.
- Won high school provincial championships in volleyball, badminton and curling.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A strong skater who plays with confidence. Once in motion after a few steps, displays deceptive speed and is hard to contain in all facets of the game. Very shifty in tight quarters with excellent vision and playmaking abilities. Doesn't panic when pressured and has the ability to speed up or slow down a game. Hard to contain with a high compete level. Can play any style needed and is very poised in most situations.

Plays Like:

Rangers forward **Chris Kreider**



Pavel Mintyukov

No. 6-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 197 lbs

Team: Saginaw (OHL)

Birthplace: Moscow, Russia

- Highest-ranked North American defenseman by NHL Central Scouting for the 2022 Upper Deck NHL Draft.
- Finished third among OHL defensemen in points in 2021-22 (17-45—62 in 67 GP).
- Member of Team Russia's gold medal entry at the 2019 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, finishing the tournament with 0-5—5 (6 GP) – tied for third in scoring among defensemen and as his team's highest scoring blueliner.
- Spent the majority of the 2019-20 season with Dynamo Moscow 2 in Russia's junior league (1-2—3 in 33 GP).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A strong skater and confident puck carrier who can exit defensive zone pressure while beating defenders with regularity. Possesses quickness to create space and a top gear to pull away from and/or back defenders off. Uses puck control and high-end dangles to beat defenders one-on-one. An active defenseman who is always looking to push the pace by jumping into and often leading the attack. Pinches down and makes plays in the offensive zone. A physical player who is strong on his skates and steps up to deliver well-timed hits. Has the strength to win battles and separate players from the puck.

Plays Like:

Predators defenseman **Roman Josi**



Kevin Korchinski

No. 7-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Seattle (WHL)

Birthplace: Saskatoon, Sask.

- Korchinski ranked third among all WHL players in assists and ranked second among defensemen in points in 2021-22 with 4-61—65 in 67 GP.
- Produced the most points by any defenseman in the 2022 WHL Playoffs with 6-13—19 in 25 GP to help Seattle reach the WHL Finals before falling to the Edmonton Oil Kings in six games.
- Appeared in 23 games with Seattle in the shortened 2020-21 season where he recorded 10 assists and was named Academic Player of the Year.
- His father, **Larry Korchinski**, was a forward who played three seasons in the WHL from 1981-82 to 1983-84 with the Saskatoon Blades.
- Enjoys playing piano and spending time at the lake.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A high-end offensive defenseman who is very skilled and can generate scoring chances in all situations. Excellent on the power play while creating time and space at the offensive blue line – walks the line effectively to create passing and shooting lanes. A creative player with the puck that is difficult to defend. Has good size combined with good mobility and quickness that allows him to be a strong defender. He is the type of defenseman that can play big minutes in all situations.

Plays Like:

Golden Knights defenseman **Shea Theodore**



Luca Del Bel Belluz

No. 8-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Mississauga (OHL)

Birthplace: Woodbridge, Ont.

- Del Bel Belluz led the Steelheads in assists and ranked second on his team in goals and points (30-46—76 in 68 GP). He also tied for the third-most game-winning goals in the OHL this season with eight.
- Named most improved player in the [OHL's Coaches Poll](#) after making a 70-point improvement in his second season in the league – he had 1-5—6 through 58 games in 2019-20.
- Grew up in a soccer-loving household and played competitively until he was 12 years old with the Woodbridge Strikers.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A high-end offensive center who is a responsible player that can be used in all situations.

Possesses elite puck protection and puck management skills with a strong hockey IQ.

Combines good speed and skating ability with excellent hands. A creative player with elite vision and playmaking who attacks with the puck and has ability to beat defenders one-on-one. A high-pace player that drives the rush and sets up teammates for chances who will take the puck into high-traffic areas in order to be dangerous offensively.

Plays Like:

Rangers forward **Mika Zibanejad**



Isaac Howard

No. 9-ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 182 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Hudson, Wis.

- Howard led USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team in points with 33-49—82 in 60 games in 2021-22.
- Howard's career totals with the NTDP are 65-90—155 (2020-21 to 2021-22), which ranks sixth in assists and ninth in points on the program's [All-Time Record Book](#).
- Led Team USA in points at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship with 6-5—11 in 6 GP to help his country earn a silver medal.
- Played prep hockey at the famed Shattuck-St. Mary's school in Faribault, Minn. before joining the NTDP. The school's famous NHL alumni include **Sidney Crosby**, **Zach Parise** and **Jonathan Toews**.
- Committed to the University of Minnesota-Duluth for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A very good skater who plays the game at a high pace with a nice burst of speed. Has the ability to be shifty with the puck using quick hands – handles the puck very well. Gets his shot off quickly with good offensive instincts. A hard player to play against with high-end passion and compete level.

Plays Like:

Blues forward **Jordan Kyrou**



Owen Beck

No. 10-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Mississauga (OHL)

Birthplace: Peterborough, Ont.

- Tied for fifth among OHL rookies in 2021-22 with 21-30—51 in 68 GP for the Mississauga Steelheads, followed by a team-leading five assists in the 2022 OHL Playoffs (1-5—6 in 10 GP).
- Voted Eastern Conference's Best on Face-Offs in the [2021-22 OHL Coaches Poll](#).
- Winner of the 2021-22 Bobby Smith Trophy awarded annually to the OHL's Scholastic Player of the Year.
- His parents both have ties to sport, his mother, **Tanya**, is an athletic therapist and his father, **David**, played university soccer.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A powerful skater that plays a highly effective two-way game. Smart, versatile, and utilized in all key situations. Has the ability and vision to create off the rush and the balance and strength on his skates to operate and make plays in traffic. Handles the puck with poise and patience while possessing a heavy shot he can get off while skating in top gear as well as in tight pressure situations. Excellent play without the puck with strict attention to detail – quickly sorts out defensive responsibilities. A big asset on both special team units who does a multitude of the little, often underappreciated parts of the game very well and with consistency.

Plays Like:

Canucks forward **Bo Horvat**



Jimmy Snuggerud

No. 11-ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 186 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Minneapolis, Minn.

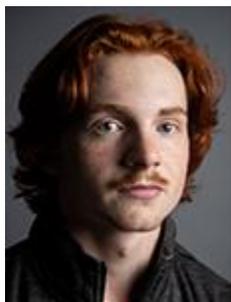
- Ranked seventh on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team in 2021-22 with 24-39—63 in 59 GP while ranking second on the team with seven power-play goals.
- Helped Team USA earn a silver medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship while producing 3-4—7 in 6 GP.
- His father, **Dave**, appeared in 265 career NHL games with the Sabres, Sharks and Flyers. His grandfather, **James Westby**, represented Team USA at the World Championship and at the 1964 Winter Olympics.
- Committed to the University of Minnesota for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A solid skater with good speed while carrying the puck. Possesses a quick burst out of the blocks with a quick release and the ability to get his shot off in traffic. Good playmaking ability. Plays a responsible two-way game with a high-end battle level in contact areas. Very good hockey IQ.

Plays Like:

Golden Knights forward **Max Pacioretty**



Jagger Firkus

No. 12-ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 153 lbs

Team: Moose Jaw (WHL)

Birthplace: Irma, Alta.

- Led the Moose Jaw Warriors in points and ranked 14th in WHL scoring with 36-44—80 in 66 GP. His seven game-winning tallies also led his team and were the most by a Warriors player since 2018-19, when **Brayden Tracey** and **Tristin Langan** each had 11.
- Posted 6-6—12 in 10 games during the 2022 WHL Playoffs, including a [highlight-reel lacrosse-style goal](#) to help the Moose Jaw Warriors defeat the Saskatoon Blades in Game 1 of the opening round.
- Named Player of the Game for Team White at the 2022 CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game after posting 1-1—2 in a 3-1 victory.
- Lists Maple Leafs forward **Mitch Marner** as a similar-sized NHL player he looks up to.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Possesses a quick release and catches defenders off guard while shooting on the fly. Displays very good vision and soft hands, can be deceptive with his speed to create scoring chances for himself and his teammates. Plays a 200-foot game and is also a threat on the power play. Hard on the puck in all three zones with tenacious forechecking. Effectively uses the half wall in the offensive zone with the ability to create his own time and space.

Plays Like:

Maple Leafs forward **Mitch Marner**



David Goyette

No. 13-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 172 lbs

Team: Sudbury (OHL)

Birthplace: St-Jerome, Que.

- Led all OHL rookies in goals and points during the 2021-22 season (33-40—73 in 66 GP) and ranked second in assists.
- Paced his team, the Sudbury Wolves, recording 11 more goals, six more assists and 23 more points than his nearest teammates.
- Posted the longest point streak by an OHL rookie in 2021-22 (9-12—21 in 13 GP), collecting 21 of his 73 points from Feb. 23 - March 25.
- Represented Team Canada at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (1-2—3 in 4 GP).
- Has trained with Canadian Olympic track and field athlete and four time national 100-metre champion **Nicolas Macrozonaris**' running club.
- His father, **Mike**, is a firefighter and former amateur boxer.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Excellent skater with high-end speed and strong edges who uses his skating to his advantage. An attacking style player with the puck that can turn rushes into highlight reel worthy plays. Very slippery with the puck and hard to check with a great set of hands and puck skills. High-end vision and playmaking ability. Executes high-end plays at a high pace with game-breaking talent and ability.

Plays Like:

Coyotes forward **Clayton Keller**



Denton Mateychuk

No. 14-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 188 lbs

Team: Moose Jaw (WHL)

Birthplace: Winnipeg, Man.

- Ranked fifth among WHL defensemen with 13-51—64 in 65 GP during the 2021-22 season.
- Notched a career-high six-assist performance on March 19, 2022 versus the Regina Pats (0-6—6), which saw him become the first Warriors player with as many assists in a game in 20 years (**Derek Krestanovich** on Mar. 6, 2002).
- Produced at a point-per-game pace during the 2022 WHL Playoffs (1-9—10 in 10 GP) to help Moose Jaw advance to the Second Round.
- Member of Team Canada's gold medal-winning team at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship (3 GP).
- His cousin, **Owen Pickering**, is a defenseman for the WHL's Swift Current Broncos and the No. 15-ranked North American Skater for the 2022 Upper Deck NHL Draft.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Very strong skater who displays speed and agility along with quick feet. A force from the back end who will often lead or join the rush for scoring opportunities. Creates chances with his ability to anticipate the play and a quick transition game. A very versatile player who is solid on his skates and likes to jump up in all areas to make a big hit. Confident in his play and used in all game situations.

Plays Like:

Bruins defenseman **Charlie McAvoy**



Owen Pickering

No. 15-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'4"

Weight: 178 lbs

Team: Swift Current (WHL)

Birthplace: St. Adolphe, Man.

- Led all defensemen on the Swift Current Broncos and ranked sixth among WHL rookie blueliners with 9-24—33 in 62 GP during the 2021-22 season.
- Represented Team Canada at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he was named a Top 3 Player on his team after posting 0-2—2 in 4 GP.
- Earned honors with distinction in each year of high school.
- His cousin, **Denton Mateychuk**, is a defenseman for the WHL's Moose Jaw Warriors and the No. 14-ranked North American Skater for the 2022 Upper Deck NHL Draft.
- Played provincial baseball as a pitcher and second baseman alongside fellow potential first-round NHL draft picks **Conor Geekie** and **Denton Mateychuk**.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A very good skater with skill and speed who uses his acceleration to provide offense through the middle of the ice. Displays a calm demeanor when defending with quick feet to elude forecheckers. Uses his stick and smarts when defending and will finish checks without putting himself out of position. Good stickhandling skill with quick hands – has developed into an offensive threat this past season but hasn't reached his full potential yet. Drives to the net well for a defenseman.

Plays Like:

Flames defenseman **Noah Hanifin**



Nathan Gaucher

No. 16-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'3"

Weight: 207 lbs

Team: Quebec (QMJHL)

Birthplace: Chambly, Que.

- Recorded 31-26—57 in 66 GP with the Quebec Remparts in 2021-22 to help his team to the top of the QMJHL regular-season league standings.
- Added 3-6—9 in 12 postseason contests to help Quebec advance to the Semifinals of the 2022 QMJHL Playoffs.
- Highest-ranked North American Skater from the QMJHL by NHL Central Scouting for the 2022 Upper Deck NHL Draft (No. 16).
- His brother, **Jacob**, is captain of the QMJHL's Baie-Comeau Drakkar who posted 35-33—68 in 66 GP during the 2021-22 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A good size center who brings a solid two-way game. Skilled player with good skating ability who can process the game well with good puck skill and vision. An unselfish player who carries the puck well and dishes it out to open teammates. Good compete level and brings a physical element; will finish every check possible. Plays a mature, responsible game with and without the puck. A good mix of playmaking and scoring ability. Great at bringing pucks to the net using his size and physical strength. A solid all-around prospect.

Plays Like:

Rangers forward **Mika Zibanejad**



Rieger Lorenz

No. 17-ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 184 lbs

Team: Okotoks (AJHL)

Birthplace: Calgary, Alta.

- Ranked fifth in AJHL scoring with 38-47—85 in 60 GP for the Okotoks Oilers in 2021-22 and added 2-9—11 in 14 postseason contests.
- Named CJHL and AJHL Rookie of the Year in 2021-22.
- Represented Team Canada at the Under-18 World Championship, the only CJHL player on the roster, and produced at a point-per-game pace with 0-4—4 in 4 GP.
- Committed to the University of Denver for the 2022-23 season.
- His great uncle, **Garnet "Ace" Bailey**, was a forward and two-time Stanley Cup champion (1970 & 1972 w/ BOS) who appeared in 568 NHL games with the Bruins, Red Wings, Blues and Capitals. Bailey spent seven years as the Kings director of pro scouting and the organization presents [The Ace Bailey Memorial Award](#) each season to the Kings Most Inspirational Player.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A good-sized winger that can score and make plays. Uses his size well to protect the puck. A good skater that can create space under pressure. Possesses an excellent shot and is a proven finisher. Plays on all special teams and has improved over the year in all facets of the game.

Plays Like:

Avalanche forward **Mikko Rantanen**



Ryan Chesley

No. 18-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 195 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: St. Paul, Minn.

- Led all defensemen on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team with 12 goals and produced 12-17—29 in 59 GP overall.
- Helped Team USA earn a silver medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he led all skaters in the tournament with a plus-13 rating (2-3—5 in 6 GP).
- A veteran of the NTDP, Chesley played mostly for the Under-17 team in 2020-21 where he led all defensemen on his team with 11 goals and ranked second among blueliners in points (11-23—34 in 37 GP).
- Committed to the University of Minnesota for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A mobile two-way defenseman who is an elite skater both forward and backward. Can escape pressure with deceptive speed. Has an accurate shot and is very efficient getting it to the net from the point. Defends very well with good positioning and use of his size and strength. An effective passer who can quickly find the open man. Very good defensive anticipation with the ability to intercept pucks and transition to offense with ease.

Plays Like:

Maple Leafs defenseman **Morgan Rielly**



Sam Rinzel

No. 19-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'4"

Weight: 177 lbs

Team: Chaska (HIGH-MN)

Birthplace: Waconia, Minn.

- Spent most of the 2021-22 season with Chaska High School in Minnesota where he ranked second on his team, regardless of position, with 9-29—38 in 27 games.
- Also appeared in 21 games with the USHL's Waterloo Black Hawks in 2021-22 where he registered 2-8—10 in 21 GP.
- Represented Team USA at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (4 GP).
- Top-rated high school player on NHL Central Scouting's Final Rankings for the 2022 Upper Deck NHL Draft.
- Committed to the University of Minnesota for the 2023-24 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A high-end skater for his size with a fluid stride and very good mobility. Can effectively skate or pass the puck out of the defending zone. A very good first pass with good vision finding open teammates. Handles the puck well and shows a quick release getting pucks through from the point. Defends with a good, strong stick and has a solid hockey IQ.

Plays Like:

Golden Knights defenseman **Alex Pietrangelo**



Maveric Lamoureux

No. 20-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'7"

Weight: 197 lbs

Team: Drummondville (QMJHL)

Birthplace: Laval, Que.

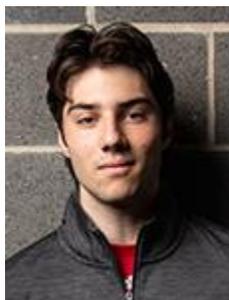
- The top-rated QMJHL defenseman by NHL Central Scouting ranked second among blueliners on the Drummondville Voltigeurs with 4-20—24 in 54 games while leading his team with 69 penalty minutes.
- His father, **Patrick**, was a forward who played three seasons with the QMJHL's Granby Bisons from 1991-92 to 1993-94.
- Good friends with fellow 2022 draft-eligible prospect **David Goyette**. The two were teammates for most of their youth and played minor hockey in Hawkesbury, Ont.
- Spent his summers playing lacrosse in Quebec and Ontario between the ages of eight and 15, including at a high level with the North Shore Kodiaks.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Solid all-around skater with a 6'7" frame who possesses impressive fluidity with his skating. Good mobility with the backward stride. Tough to play against with good defensive instincts and a physical game. Made good progress with his puck management. Makes clean hard passes and can generate chances from the back end with accurate puck movement. Solid defenseman with size and skating skill with a potential high ceiling once he reaches full maturity.

Plays Like:

Blues defenseman **Colton Parayko**



Frank Nazar

No. 21-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Detroit, Mich.

- Ranked third on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team in 2021-22 with 28-42—70 in 56 GP.
- Helped Team USA earn a silver medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship, where he tied for third on his team with 3-6—9 in 6 GP.
- Introduced to hockey through his father, **Frank**, who used to own a parking garage in downtown Detroit where people who came to watch Red Wings games would leave their cars. Through those experiences, his father started watching more hockey, became a fan and even attended the Red Wings Stanley Cup parades.
- A native of Detroit, Mich. who grew up playing in the Honeybaked and Little Caesar's youth hockey programs and has committed to the University of Michigan for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

An excellent skater who can generate speed quickly, processes the game very well and can create chances on the fly. A consistent scoring threat who moves well laterally when carrying the puck and is hard to contain. Makes very good decisions with excellent hockey IQ and work ethic. Competes hard and can win one-on-one battles when facing bigger players.

Plays Like:

Flames forward **Johnny Gaudreau**



Rutger McGroarty

No. 22-ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 200 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Lincoln, Neb.

- Led USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team in goals and game-winning goals (tied) in 2021-22 while ranking fourth on the team in points (35-34—69 in 54 GP).
- Registered the best plus-minus among *forwards* on the NTDP Under-18 team in 2021-22 (+54), trailing only a pair of defensemen: **Tyler Duke** (+60) and **Lane Hutson** (+59).
- Captained Team USA to a silver medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he was named a Top 3 Player on his team while posting 8-1—9 in 6 GP. His eight goals ranked second in the tournament behind Czechia's **Jiri Kulich** (9).
- Committed to the University of Michigan for the 2022-23 season.
- A native of Lincoln, Neb. His father, **Jimmy**, grew up in Toronto as a big hockey fan and ended up working as a head coach for the USHL's Lincoln Stars before his current position of GM for the Muskegon Lumberjacks.
- Can become the seventh Nebraska-born player to be selected in the NHL Draft, a list that includes Penguins forward **Jake Guentzel** (No. 77 in 2013).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A power forward who plays a 200-foot game and has an excellent compete level with exceptional leadership qualities. Tough to contain in front of the net. Forces defenders to react and is able to make plays on the fly. Effective stealing pucks on the forecheck to create chances in the attacking zone. Can put his team on his back to change the outcome of a game. Excellent hockey sense.

Plays Like:

Stars forward **Joe Pavelski**



Matyas Sapovaliv

No. 23-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'3"

Weight: 182 lbs

Team: Saginaw (OHL)

Birthplace: Prague, Czechia

- Finished fourth among OHL rookies with 18-34—52 in 68 GP for the Saginaw Spirit in 2021-22.
- Ranked second on the Spirit with seven power-play goals in 2021-22, while also chipping in with two shorthanded markers.
- Represented Czechia in their fourth-place finish at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (1-2—3 in 6 GP).
- His sister, **Adela**, represented Czechia at the 2022 Under-18 Women's World Championship where she finished second in tournament scoring with 3-6—9 in 5 GP.
- Appeared in 12 games for Kladno's men's team in Czechia during the 2020-21 season where his teammates included two hockey legends from his country: **Jaromir Jagr** and **Tomas Plekanec**. Plekanec even spent some extra time with him to help him with his face-offs.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

An impressive combination of size, skating and puck skills. Fluid movement and body control in all directions with deceptive top-end speed. Has a quick burst to create separation while carrying the puck. Excellent hands and puck control with the ability to dice through traffic and make plays. Effectively uses his big frame and long reach to protect the puck and make plays through contact. Makes difficult reads under pressure while playing a strong and impactful two-way game. Equally effective on both special teams and can be inserted into any game situation.

Plays Like:

Sharks forward **Tomas Hertl**



Tristan Luneau

No. 24-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 188 lbs

Team: Gatineau (QMJHL)

Birthplace: Victoriaville, Que.

- Ranked 15th among QMJHL defensemen and led all blueliners on his team with 12-31—43 in 63 games for the Gatineau Olympiques in 2021-22. He added 0-6—6 in seven postseason appearances.
- After Gatineau made him the No. 1 overall pick in the 2020 QMJHL Draft, Luneau was named QMJHL Rookie of the Year and to the All-Rookie Team in 2020-21 after ranking second among first-year blueliners with 4-14—18 in 31 GP.
- Named Top Defenseman and a First Team All-Star while playing AAA Junior Hockey in Quebec as captain of the Trois-Rivières Estacades in 2019-20 (6-24—30 in 37 GP).
- Wears No. 8 after one of his favorite players, Kings defenseman **Drew Doughty**.
- He comes from a family full of athletes. His mother, **Nadia**, is a former figure skater who still coaches the sport. His father, **Dominic**, played in the QJHL (1993-94), his oldest brother, **Samuel**, is a university football player and his second-oldest brother, **Maxim**, is a gymnast and rope performer who recently performed for Cirque du Soleil. He also has another brother in hockey, **Tommy**, who was a QMJHL draft pick in 2018 and most-recently played for the Princeville Titans of the QJHL in 2020-21.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A skilled, mobile defenseman with elite hockey sense who moves the puck with precision and authority. Has good vision, processes the game well and shows elusiveness with the puck. A smart player who finds open options on zone exits. Defends very well; takes time and space away from opponents with good angles and is quick to transition plays. Plays in all game situations.

Plays Like:

Oilers defenseman **Evan Bouchard**



Lane Hutson

No. 25-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'8"

Weight: 148 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Holland, Mich.

- The top producing defenseman on USA Hockey's' National Team Development Program's Under-18 team in 2021-22 with 10-53—63 in 60 GP – his 53 assists led all players in the program last season regardless of position.
- Finished the 2021-22 season with a plus-59 rating, the second highest on his team behind fellow defenseman **Tyler Duke** (+60).
- Named Best Defenseman at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he led all blueliners in assists while helping Team USA earn a silver medal (0-8—8 in 6 GP). His standout performance also saw him named a Tournament All-Star.
- The 2021-22 [recipient of the NHL's E.J. McGuire Award of Excellence](#), presented annually "to the NHL Draft prospect who best exemplifies commitment to excellence through strength of character, competitiveness and athleticism."
- His father, **Rob**, was a forward who played four seasons of NCAA hockey with the University of Illinois-Chicago from 1992-93 to 1995-96 and also spent time playing in the ECHL and UHL.
- Has always been drawn to playing defense despite his smaller size because he enjoys being able to see the whole ice and control the play.
- Committed to Boston University for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A defenseman with high-end quickness and mobility who uses his skating to buy time and make plays. Handles the puck very well with quick hands including while in traffic. Can make plays out of nothing thanks in part to very good composure with the puck. Snaps the puck quickly and accurately. Possesses high-end vision finding open teammates and shows a good stick while defending.

Plays Like:

Penguins defenseman **Kris Letang**



Jack Hughes

No. 26-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 170 lbs

Team: Northeastern (H-EAST)

Birthplace: Westwood, Mass.

- Recorded 7-9—16 in 39 GP during his freshman season at Northeastern University where he at times played on the same line as his brother, **Riley**, who was a seventh-round pick by the Rangers in 2018 (216th overall).
- His freshman season of 2021-22 included being named to the Hockey East All-Rookie Team while helping Northeastern University finish atop the Hockey East regular-season standings.
- Represented Team USA at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship (1-1—2 in 4 GP) and helped his country earn a silver medal at the 2019 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (3-4—7 in 6 GP).
- Skated for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team in 2020-21 where he posted 8-26—34 in 38 GP. One of his teammates was Devils prospect **Luke Hughes**, brother of Devils forward **Jack Hughes** – a player this **Jack Hughes** is often mistaken for but not related to.
- His father, **Kent**, is the current general manager of the Canadiens. His uncle, **Ryan**, was a second-round pick by the Nordiques in 1990 and appeared in three games for the Bruins during the 1995-96 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A complete two-way center who has an elite hockey IQ and is responsible in all zones. Excellent positional play without the puck allows him to intercept passes and transition to offense. Possesses a very quick release and deceptive shot. High-end compete level and battle game.

Plays Like:

Jets forward **Paul Stastny**



Adam Ingram

No. 27-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 165 lbs

Team: Youngstown (USHL)

Birthplace: Winnipeg, Man.

- Named to the USHL All-Rookie Team in 2021-22 after ranking second among all first-year skaters with 26-29—55 in 54 GP for the Youngstown Phantoms.
- Played the shortened 2020-21 season with the Selkirk Steelers of the MJHL (2-5—7 in 8 GP) after multiple years with the Winnipeg Hawks junior program, averaging over a point per game with the U-18 team in 2019-20 (15-18—33 in 32 GP) and winning forward of the year on the U-17 team in 2018-19 after leading the league in goals (32), assists (32) and points (64).
- Committed to St. Cloud State University for the 2022-23 season.
- Also an avid golfer affiliated through Golf Canada with Elmhurst Golf and Country Club where he has played in several well-recognized amateur and junior events.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Good size and moves well in all directions with good speed and solid balance and strength on his skates. Can snap the puck quickly with pace. Possesses a heavy shot and can finish from a distance. Shows good hands in tight spots and has good vision finding open teammates. Bumps opponents off the puck well and likes to take the puck wide to the net. Protects the puck well.

Plays Like:

Jets forward **Kyle Connor**



Fraser Minten

No. 28-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Kamloops (WHL)

Birthplace: Vancouver, B.C.

- Finished sixth on the Kamloops Blazers in points as a rookie with 20-35—55 in 67 GP during the 2021-22 season to help his team finish atop the WHL's B.C. division.
- Ranked fourth on his team during the 2022 WHL Playoffs with 6-10—16 in 17 GP to help Kamloops reach the WHL Western Conference Championship Series.
- Played in the West Vancouver Academy Prep Under-18 Program in 2019-20 where one of his teammates was Regina Pats forward **Connor Bedard**, who is considered one of the top prospects for the 2023 NHL Draft.
- Made the honor roll each year of high school. Likes listening to music and plays the guitar and piano.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Good sized forward with a high hockey IQ who can play both center and the wing. The type of player that can excel in all situations and that coaches rely on heavily. Played key minutes in all situations on a very strong Kamloops team. A very good skater with a strong stride who plays a possession-type game. Controls the puck very well in traffic – an excellent playmaker with vision and strong passing skills. Possesses a quick release on his shot and has shown he can score.

Plays Like:

Red Wings forward **Dylan Larkin**



Seamus Casey

No. 29-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'9"

Weight: 162 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Miami, Fla.

- Was the second-highest scoring defenseman on USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team in 2021-22 with 10-23—33 in 48 GP, trailing only **Lane Hutson** (10-53—63 in 60 GP).
- Helped Team USA claim a silver medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he produced at a point-per-game rate (3-3—6 in 6 GP).
- A native of Miami, Fla., who played youth hockey in Florida and Michigan while seeking out the best competition. He likes how [hockey is improving in Florida](#): "Youth hockey is getting a lot better. There are a lot of retired pros coming in, and they get into it, and that's huge. They know the game and how things should be run. The more that happens the better, and more people are moving to Florida these days."
- Committed to the University of Michigan for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A solid skater in all directions who escapes well with the puck using good mobility and pull-away speed. Handles the puck well and shows good poise to find a second option. Can make plays in traffic and is able to get pucks through from the point. Defends and checks opponents with purpose using a good stick and a solid compete level.

Plays Like:

Wild defenseman **Jared Spurgeon**



Michael Buchinger

No. 30-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Guelph (OHL)

Birthplace: Markham, Ont.

- Ranked second among OHL rookie defensemen and first among blueliners on his team with 5-39—44 in 63 GP with the OHL's Guelph Storm in 2021-22. He then added 1-2—3 in 5 postseason appearances.
- Named OHL defenseman and rookie of the month in February 2022 after leading all blueliners and first-year skaters with 2-15—17 in 12 GP. He became the first Storm defenseman to earn the honor since current Kings blueliner **Sean Durzi** in January 2019 and the first Storm rookie to do so in 15 years (**Thomas McCollum** in January 2007).
- Helped the Toronto Jr. Canadiens AAA team win the GTHL championship in 2019-20 with 6-7—13 in 31 GP. One of teammates was another defenseman looking to be selected in the 2022 Upper Deck NHL Draft – **Ty Nelson** (11-21—32 in 33 GP).
- Likes to play chess.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A consistent defenseman who plays a solid two-way game. Excellent skater with speed and mobility in all directions. Competes hard and plays physical. A smart defender who uses positioning and a great stick to his advantage. Smart puck mover who is decisive and makes the right play quickly. Is used on both special teams and can be relied on in all crucial game situations. The type of defenseman you want on your team and know you are going to get a winning effort from every night.

Plays Like:

Jets defenseman **Josh Morrissey**



Reid Schaefer

No. 31-ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'3"

Weight: 213 lbs

Team: Seattle (WHL)

Birthplace: Edmonton, Alta.

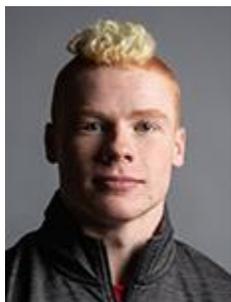
- Tied for ninth in WHL rookie scoring with 32-26—58 in 66 GP for the Seattle Thunderbirds. His two shorthanded goals were tied for the second most by a rookie in 2021-22.
- Tied for sixth in points during the 2022 WHL Playoffs where he registered 6-15—21 in 25 GP to help Seattle reach the WHL Championship Series where they fell to the Edmonton Oil Kings.
- His father, **Jeremy**, was a seventh-round pick by the Bruins in 1994 (177th overall). His cousin, **Colin Fraser**, is a two-time Stanley Cup champion (2010 w/ CHI & 2012 w/ LAK) who was a third-round pick by the Flyers in 2003 (69th overall).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Big body winger that can play a power forward game. Much improved this year and is playing with a great deal of confidence. Starting to show he can score at the WHL level, plays in all key situations and is a player coaches trust. Has the ability to play both wings effectively. A good playmaker that shows vision and good touch.

Plays Like:

Sabres forward **Alex Tuch**



Ty Nelson

No. 32-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 196 lbs

Team: North Bay (OHL)

Birthplace: Toronto, Ont.

- Led OHL rookie defensemen in points with 9-42—51 in 66 GP for the OHL's North Bay Battalion. His 42 assists in 2021-22 topped all OHL rookies, regardless of position.
- Scored five game-winning goals in 2021-22, tied for the most by an OHL defenseman last season.
- Added 0-10—10 in 13 GP during the 2022 OHL Playoffs to help North Bay advance to the Second Round – despite just two rounds of action he finished fourth in points by a defenseman at the conclusion of the postseason.
- Was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2020 OHL Priority Selection.
- Strives to bring greater awareness to autism. It is dear to his heart because a close family friend has autism and his sister is currently in her third of four years in university where she is specializing in working with children with autism. Says Nelson: "My goal is to raise money and bring awareness for those who are on the spectrum. Currently it's very underfunded. I just want to help break down the stigma surrounding autism."

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

High energy defenseman that plays a power game from the back end. Strong skater with great acceleration which benefits his game in all areas of the ice. Exceptional special teams player. A puck mover who sees layers and can push the pace with hard tape-to-tape passes. Very good vision and puck skills from the back end – an excellent transition defenseman that can rush the puck or join the play as a trailing threat. Cannon of a shot. Compete level is off the charts – shows up every night and plays a consistent game.

Plays Like:

Wild defenseman **Matt Dumba**



Noah Warren

No. 33-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'5"

Weight: 216 lbs

Team: Gatineau (QMJHL)

Birthplace: Montreal, Que.

- A 6'5" defenseman who recorded 5-19—24 in 62 GP for the QMJHL's Gatineau Olympiques in 2021-22, with three of his five goals standing as the game winner.
- Wrote an impactful piece for [HockeyCanada.ca](https://www.hockeycanada.ca) for Black History Month on wanting to be a role model for young Black kids.
- Grew up in a family full of athletes: His grandfather, **Raynald Boutin**, was a goaltender who played in the QMJHL and was a ninth-round pick by the Flyers in 1972 (135th overall); his mother, **Magalie**, was a nationally ranked swimmer; and his father, **Claude**, became a swimming coach.
- Lists Blackhawks defenseman **Seth Jones** as his hockey idol and aspires to develop a similar two-way game at the NHL level.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Good size defenseman with impressive skating skill that includes a smooth stride while generating speed and good agility and mobility for a player of his size. A physical presence who is tough to play against. Good defensive structure in his game with smart positioning and understanding of team systems. Uses his stick reach to his advantage. Finds the shooting lanes and has a good shot from the point. Plays an effective two-way game.

Plays Like:

Flyers defenseman **Rasmus Ristolainen**



Bryce McConnell-Barker

No. 34-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 193 lbs

Team: Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)

Birthplace: London, Ont.

- Ranked ninth among OHL rookies in 2021-22 with 23-26—49 in 68 GP for the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. His seven power-play goals also tied for fourth among rookie skaters.
- Added 1-4—5 in 10 GP during the 2022 OHL Playoffs to help the Greyhounds advance to the Second Round.
- Named ALLIANCE Hockey Player of the Year while skating for the London Junior Knights in 2020-21 while ranking second in the league in goals (29) and sixth in points (48).
- Enjoys weightlifting and has spent time at The Training Station in his hometown of London, Ont., the same spot where NHL players including **Corey Perry**, **Drew Doughty** and **Logan Couture** have spent time training.
- Lists track and field, cross country and basketball as other sports he grew up participating in.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Plays a competitive and intelligent two-way game. A powerful skater with the strength to protect the puck and fight through contact. Good use of stops, starts and quick cuts to create space while also maintaining puck control. Goes hard to the net with and without the puck. Plays physical and finishes hits with a relentless forecheck to create turnovers and rushed plays. A well-rounded player who can be used in all situations.

Plays Like:

Kings forward **Anze Kopitar**



Danil Zhilkin

No. 35-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 189 lbs

Team: Guelph (OHL)

Birthplace: Moscow, Russia

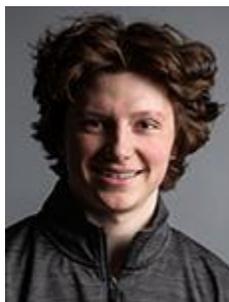
- Ranked second on the OHL's Guelph Storm with 23-32—55 in 66 GP and tied for the team lead with five game-winning goals.
- When the OHL was shut down for the 2020-21 season, Zhilkin spent time in Scottsdale, Ariz. under the tutelage of NHL skills coach **Boris Dorozhenko**, who came to fame for helping to develop Maple Leafs prospect **Auston Matthews**.
- Born in Moscow, Russia, Zhilkin first came to Canada in 2013 for the Roger Neilson Hockey Camp in Aurora, Ont. There, he was recruited by a minor hockey coach for the Toronto Young Nationals. Despite not speaking English at the time, his whole family moved to Canada to help him pursue his hockey dreams.
- Has represented Team Canada at multiple tournaments including helping them win a gold medal at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship (0-2—2 in 7 GP).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

An exceptional skater who plays a strong two-way game. Can play and excel in all situations. Has the quickness to create space for himself and the agility and puck skills to beat defenders one-on-one. A strong shooter who can finish in multiple ways with a great release on his shot. Displays control, vision and creativity with the puck. Can make plays at a high pace. Strong Pro upside.

Plays Like:

Capitals forward **Evgeny Kuznetsov**



Quinn Finley

No. 36-ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 168 lbs

Team: Madison (USHL)

Birthplace: Valparaiso, Ind.

- Recorded 12-17—29 in just 39 GP with his home state Madison Capitals of the USHL in 2021-22. In the 2022 Clark Cup Playoffs, he helped Madison reach the Final by ranking tied for seventh in postseason points with 5-5—10 in 14 GP.
- Drafted No. 1 overall by the Madison Capitals in the 2020 USHL Futures Draft.
- Spent limited time with the USHL's Clark Cup Champion Chicago Steel in 2020-21, appearing in 39 regular-season games (1-5—6 in 39 GP) but none in the postseason.
- Represented Team USA at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-3—3 in 4 GP).
- Committed to the University of Wisconsin for the 2023-24 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

An excellent skater who gets to top speed with just a couple of steps. Manages the puck on the fly and is deceptive and hard to contain. A very good passer who can find the open man effectively with high-end hockey IQ. Plays with grit despite his size. Creates scoring chances almost every shift. Always first on the forecheck. Can handle the puck in traffic and at high speed.

Plays Like:

Panthers forward **Jonathan Huberdeau**



Dylan James

No. 37-ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 181 lbs

Team: Sioux City (USHL)

Birthplace: Calgary, Alta.

- Named USHL Rookie of the Year and to the USHL All-Rookie Team in 2021-22 after leading all first-year skaters in goals (28), assists (33), points (61) and game-winning goals (5).
- Registered 5-3—8 in 10 postseason games to help the Sioux City Musketeers win the franchise's first Clark Cup championship in 20 years.
- Skated for the Okotoks Oilers of the Alberta Junior Hockey League prior to playing in the USHL and was named to the South Division All-Rookie Team in 2019-20 after posting 20-23—43 in 51 GP.
- Committed to the University of North Dakota for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A strong skater with good quickness in tight spots and a nice stride. Uses good balance and strength on his skates to take the puck hard to the net and shows a good short pass game including utilizing give-and-go plays. Releases the puck quickly in stride on the rush. Tough to handle down low in the offensive zone and plays a firm game overall. Smart on both sides of the puck.

Plays Like:

Penguins forward **Rickard Rakell**



Josh Filmon

No. 38-ranked North American Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 160 lbs

Team: Swift Current (WHL)

Birthplace: Winnipeg, Man.

- A WHL rookie in 2021-22 who ranked third on his team with 23-22—45 in 67 games for the Swift Current Broncos. His 23 goals led all skaters on the club.
- Scored six game-opening goals in the 2021-22 season, tied for the fourth most among WHL rookies.
- Represented Team Canada at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (0-1—1 in 3 GP).
- A strong baseball player who still plays at the AAA level in Winnipeg.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Displays quick speed especially when in tight quarters. Good vision and playmaking abilities. Protects the puck well with good body positioning. A threat both at five-on-five and when playing on special teams. Responsible in his own end. Creates open space to use his quick release shot. Utilizes a good stutter step to elude defenders.

Plays Like:

Canucks forward **Elias Pettersson**



Nicholas Moldenhauer

No. 39-ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 170 lbs

Team: Chicago (USHL)

Birthplace: Oakville, Ont.

- Registered the highest points per game average of any skater ranked among the top 20 USHL rookie scorers in 2021-22 (1.05 P/GP: 18-25—43 in 41 GP).
- Named to the USHL All-Rookie Second Team in 2021-22.
- A native of Oakville, Ont., Moldenhauer moved to New Jersey in 2020-21 to play with the North Jersey Avalanche because hockey leagues were shut down in Ontario. He also appeared in his first six regular season and three postseason games with the Clark Cup champion Chicago Steel during that season.
- Represented Team Canada on the international stage at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship (1-2—3 in 4 GP).
- Has a scar on his face after a skate cut him for 175 stitches in a game during the 2021-22 season. He scored his first game back in the lineup after the injury. Said Moldenhauer: "I don't really like to think about what it could have been but I definitely have thought about it. It could have been a lot worse. I'm pretty fortunate. It was scary. I could barely open my mouth to eat."

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Has very good patience and understanding of the game to create scoring chances when carrying the puck. Excellent work ethic with a good forecheck game. A strong skillset that makes him an effective player in all areas of the ice. Willing to be physical to possess the puck. Plays a 200-foot game and is responsible defensively.

Plays Like:

Panthers forward **Claude Giroux**



Cameron Lund

No. 40-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Green Bay (USHL)

Birthplace: Bridgewater, Mass.

- Ranked third among USHL rookies with 25-25—50 in 62 GP for the Green Bay Gamblers in 2021-22.
- Named to the USHL All-Rookie Second Team in 2021-22.
- Represented Team USA at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he produced over a point per game with 4-1—5 in 4 GP.
- A Bridgewater, Mass. native who developed in youth hockey with the Cushing Academy, South Shore Kings and Junior Bruins programs.
- Committed to Northeastern University for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A strong skater with very good quickness with and without the puck. Excellent speed to the outside and while getting to the net. Can score in multiple ways with very good hockey sense and offensive instincts. Uses his size to fight through contact to make plays and to separate opponents from the puck when in tight. Very good puck skills and quick hands in traffic and when pressured.

Plays Like:

Golden Knights forward **Max Pacioretty**



Cruz Lucius

No. 41-ranked North American Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 178 lbs

Team: USA U-18 (NTDP)

Birthplace: Lawrence, Kan.

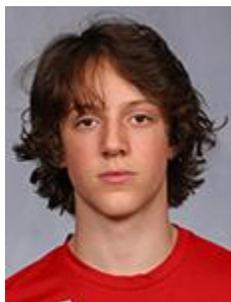
- Appeared in just 23 games for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team in 2021-22 where he registered 9-9—18 with a plus-21 rating.
- This season marked his second with the National Team Development Program after he recorded 14-28—42 in 42 GP with the Under-17 team in 2020-21.
- Helped Team USA earn silver at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he produced at over a point-per-game rate with 2-6—8 in 6 GP.
- His brother, [Chaz](#), was a first-round pick by the Jets in 2021 (No. 18 overall) and skated for the University of Minnesota in 2021-22.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Strong, smooth skater with an excellent work ethic. Sees the ice well with very good hockey IQ that allows him to be composed with the puck. Always in a correct position with or without the puck. Can make plays in tight spots – handles the puck well especially in traffic. Effective shooting on the fly.

Plays Like:

Stars forward **Joe Pavelski**



Vinzenz Rohrer

No. 42-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 163 lbs

Team: Ottawa (OHL)

Birthplace: Rankweil, Austria

- Ranked sixth among OHL rookies with 25 goals in 2021-22 totaling 25-23—48 in 64 GP with the Ottawa 67's. That total includes seven power-play goals, tied for fourth-most among OHL rookies this past season.
- A native of Rankweil, Austria who captained the Zurich Lions U17 team to a league championship in 2020-21 while ranking 10th in league scoring with 28-19—47 in 26 GP.
- His father, **Stefan Lochbihler**, was a professional tennis player who had a world ranking as high as No. 141, which included winning a 1989 ATP Challenger Tour title in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Rohrer also played tennis at a high level, including winning an Austrian national junior tennis championship, before focusing on a career in hockey.
- His neighbor and friend is Wild forward **Marco Rossi**, who was Minnesota's first-round pick in 2020 (No. 9 overall).
- In his spare time enjoys meditation and also playing the piano. Has made pre-game meditation one of his game day rituals.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A confident and efficient puck carrier who consistently puts himself into scoring areas. Possesses a good shot with one-timing ability. Impressive skater with great agility and edge work who has the quickness to create separation. Plays bigger than his size and goes hard into battle areas. Plays physical, finishes hits with purpose and is willing to take a hit to make a play. Creates turnovers and quickly turns them into opportunities the other way. Consistently provides energy and effort at both ends of the ice.

Plays Like:

Penguins forward **Jake Guentzel**



Jordan Gustafson

No. 43-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 178 lbs

Team: Seattle (WHL)

Birthplace: Ardrossan, Alta.

- A WHL rookie in 2021-22 who ranked seventh on his team with 23-29—52 in 58 GP for the Seattle Thunderbirds.
- Helped Seattle reach the 2022 WHL Final producing 4-12—16 in 25 postseason appearances while ranking second among all skaters in the WHL Playoffs with 209 face-off wins.
- Averaged more than a point per game with the Fort Saskatchewan Rangers U18 AAA team in Alberta during the 2019-20 season with 11-20—31 in 29 GP.
- His brother, **Blake**, is a defenseman for the Red Deer Rebels.
- Makes time to play the guitar every day.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A highly competitive skater that plays a strong two-way game. Plays in all situations and is the type of player coaches rely on late in games to protect a lead or push to tie the game up. Brings a strong skill game and a good skating stride. Generates good speed to win races and pressure defenders. A proven producer in the WHL.

Plays Like:

Hurricanes forward **Teuvo Teravainen**



Hunter Haight

No. 44-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 173 lbs

Team: Barrie (OHL)

Birthplace: Strathroy, Ont.

- Ranked 10th among OHL rookies with 22 goals for the Barrie Colts in 2021-22, while also tying for the team lead with two shorthanded tallies.
- Skated for the Elgin Middlesex Chiefs U16 AAA team in 2019-20 where he led the Alliance U16 league in goals and ranked second in points with 32-26—58 in 33 GP.
- A strong student who was recognized as an Academic Player of the Month twice in 2021-22.
- Wears the No. 19 in honor of Red Wings legend **Steve Yzerman**.
- His father, **Steve**, is a staff sergeant with the Ontario Provincial Police who played for the OHL's Oshawa Generals in 1992-93 and for four seasons at Brock University from 1993-94 to 1995-96.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

An excellent, fluid skater with a smooth stride and top gear. Good combination of skill and smarts. A two-way player that can be counted on in all situations. Strong puck carrier that can attack with speed and can be slippery to handle. Very good puck distributor and playmaking ability. Strong work ethic and motor. Good, accurate shot. He is a player that has pro upside written all over him.

Plays Like:

Flyers forward **Travis Konecny**



Matthew Poitras

No. 45-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 174 lbs

Team: Guelph (OHL)

Birthplace: Ajax, Ont.

- Finished tied for seventh among OHL rookies in 2021-22 with 21-29—50 in 68 GP while his 58 penalty minutes ranked 12th among first-year skaters.
- Captained the Whitby Wildcats U16 team of the Eastern AAA Hockey League in 2019-20 where he tied for the league lead in assists and ranked second in points with 26-42—68 in 36 GP.
- His brother, **Adam**, plays Division I lacrosse at the University of Loyola. Matthew also played competitive lacrosse in his youth.
- Wears No. 19 after one of his favorite players – Blackhawks forward **Jonathan Toews**.
- Made the honor roll for all four years of high school and was named to the 2021-22 OHL Scholastic Team.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A determined player that makes an impact every game. A strong skater with a relentless style of play who impacts the game in all situations. Attacks with the puck and has the playmaking ability and vision to make things happen at high pace. Very good hockey sense – plays just as well away from the puck. Excellent stick and anticipation to create turnovers and giveaways. Does a lot of subtle things that go unnoticed but contribute to team success. His game will translate very well to the Pro level.

Plays Like:

Flyers forward **Travis Konecny**



Ryan Greene

No. 46-ranked North American Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 174 lbs

Team: Green Bay (USHL)

Birthplace: Paradise, N.L.

- Led the USHL's Green Bay Gamblers in points during the 2021-22 season with 19-32—51 in 59 GP.
- Ranked seventh in the USHL and led his team with 21 power-play assists in 2021-22.
- Moved from Paradise, Newfoundland, Canada at age 14 to play with the South Kent School Selects in Connecticut.
- Committed to Boston University for the 2022-23 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A solid skater with good speed and quickness. Elusive down low with the puck using good balance and strength on his skates. Quick catch and release game with the ability to get shots off in traffic. Handles the puck well in tight spots. Can finish and moves the puck well offensively. Strong in contact areas and protects the puck well. Solid net front presence. Plays with a lot of passion and is a smart player on both sides of the puck.

Plays Like:

Capitals forward **T.J. Oshie**



Mats Lindgren

No. 47-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 173 lbs

Team: Kamloops (WHL)

Birthplace: Vancouver, B.C.

- Ranked second among defensemen on his team with 5-39—44 in 68 GP to help the Kamloops Blazers finish atop the WHL's B.C. Division standings in 2021-22.
- Recorded seven assists in 17 playoff appearances with Kamloops in the 2022 WHL Playoffs to help his club advance all the way to Game 7 of the Western Conference Championship before falling to the Seattle Thunderbirds.
- Tied for second in points by a rookie defenseman in the WHL during the 2020-21 season with 1-9—10 in 22 GP.
- Moved from Sweden to Canada in 2015 and played minor hockey with the Burnaby Winter Club.
- His father, **Mats**, was a first-round pick by the original Jets in 1993 (15th overall) who appeared in 387 career NHL games with the Oilers, Islanders and Canucks.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Very good offensive defenseman with elite skating and puck handling skills. Elusive with the puck in all zones and while under pressure. The type of player that can exit the defensive zone with his skating or a pass. Plays top of the umbrella on one of the top power plays in the WHL and drives a lot of the offense for his team. Very good passer with vision and creativity. A good defender that uses his mobility and a good stick to take away time and space

Plays Like:

Penguins defenseman **Kris Letang**



Christian Kyrrou

No. 48-ranked North American Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 182 lbs

Team: Erie (OHL)

Birthplace: Toronto, Ont.

- Ranked fourth among OHL defensemen with 18-42—60 in 68 GP with Erie in 2021-22. His four game-winning goals tied for third among blueliners.
- Kyrrou's 60 points in 2021-22 were the most by an Otters defenseman since **Darren Raddysh** in 2016-17 (16-65—81 62 GP). Entering the season, he had recorded zero points in 21 OHL appearances.
- Voted the Western Conference's Most Underrated Player in the [2021-22 OHL Coaches Poll](#).
- His brother, **Jordan**, was a second-round pick by the Blues in 2016 (35th overall) and recorded 27-48—75 in 74 games with St. Louis in 2021-22.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A dynamic right shot defender with high-end offensive instincts and ability. Strong skater with excellent mobility. Drives the play and has end-to-end puck rushing ability. Sees the ice very well and advances the puck to proper outlets. Excellent shot and release. His game has rounded into a two-way type defender with game-breaking ability. A power-play quarterback with outstanding point production from the back end. One of the most improved prospects this season from start to finish.

Plays Like:

Oilers defenseman **Tyson Barrie**



PROSPECT PROFILES: ITL SKATERS



Juraj Slafkovsky

No. 1-ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'3"

Weight: 218 lbs

Team: TPS (FINLAND)

Birthplace: Kosice, Slovakia

- Named MVP of 2022 Winter Olympics after leading the tournament in goals and tying for the lead in points (7-0—7 in 7 GP) to help Slovakia earn bronze – the country's first ever Olympic medal for ice hockey.
- Two of his Slovakian hockey idols, **Marian Hossa** and **Marian Gaborik**, sent messages of congratulations after his bronze medal and standout performance at the Olympics.
- Can become just the second Slovakian-born player selected in the top five of the NHL Draft, in which he would join **Marian Gaborik** (No. 3 in 2000 by MIN).
- Spent the majority of the 2021-22 season with TPS of the Finnish Elite League (5-5—10 in 31 GP). He also averaged nearly two points per game in 11 appearances with their junior team (6-12—18 in 11 GP).
- Has represented Slovakia internationally on multiple occasions including at the World Junior Championship (2021 & 2022) and World Championship (2021 & 2022). At the 2022 World Championship he tied for 11th in tournament scoring and led all skaters on his team with 3-6—9 in 8 GP.
- Helped Slovakia earn a silver medal at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he tied for fourth in scoring with 3-6—9 (5 GP).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Uses his great size, reach and strength well. Possesses excellent vision and with his combination of size, hockey sense and puck skills he is tough to defend against. Is an active and effective checker both in the offensive and defensive zone. A surprisingly mobile, fast skater for a player of his size that plays a smart, mature game beyond his age.

Plays Like:

Maple Leafs forward **Auston Matthews**



Joakim Kemell

No. 2-ranked International Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 171 lbs

Team: JYP (FINLAND)

Birthplace: Jyvaskyla, Finland

- Led all Finnish Elite League rookies with 15 goals in 2021-22 (15-8—23 in 39 GP).
- At 17 years of age, Kemell became the [youngest Finnish Elite League](#) player to score a goal in each of his first two career games.
- Key contributor to Finland's bronze medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he tied for the team lead in points with 6-2—8 (5 GP), including capping a hat trick with an overtime winner to eliminate Canada in the Quarterfinals.
- Led JYP's junior team in goals and points in 2020-21 with 22-14—36 (38 GP).
- Named to Team Finland for the 2022 World Junior Championship.
- Skated as an alternate captain for Team Finland at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he finished the tournament tied for third in goals (5-1—6 in 5 GP), behind only **Matvei Michkov** (8 in 5 GP) and **Dalibor Dvorsky** (8 in 5 GP).
- Ranked first in the Force Plate – Squat Jump and No Arm Jump at the 2022 NHL Combine presented by adidas and ranked second in the bike category Anaerobic Fitness – Mean Power Output.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A prospect with a great set of tools including an ability to score game-winning goals. A very good skater with acceleration and speed who is solid on his skates. Possesses a very good shot that he gets away quickly. A highly-skilled playmaker who sees the ice very well and uses smooth hands and passing abilities to move the puck through traffic. Protects the puck well and plays a competitive two-way game.

Plays Like:

Capitals forward **Alex Ovechkin**



Simon Nemec

No. 3-ranked International Skater
Position: Defense
Shoots: Right
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 190 lbs
Team: Nitra (SLOVAKIA)
Birthplace: Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia

- Spent the entire 2021-22 season in Slovakia's top professional league where he registered 1-25—26 in 39 regular-season games and ranked second on his team in playoff points, regardless of position, with 5-12—17 in 19 postseason appearances.
- Collected multiple medals internationally for Slovakia in 2021-22 including bronze at the Olympic Games in Beijing (7 GP) to mark the country's first-ever medal for ice hockey and captaining his country to silver at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he was named tournament MVP.
- Named a Top 3 Player on his team at the 2021 World Junior Championship after recording 0-4—4 in 5 GP.
- Made his debut with senior club team Nitra in 2019-20 at just 15 years of age (0-3—3 in 12 GP).
- Can become just the sixth Slovakian-born defenseman selected in Round 1 of the NHL Draft and first since **Vladimir Mihalik** in 2005 (No. 30 by TBL).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A modern, mobile finesse-type of defenseman with excellent vision. A world class passer and playmaker who has a tendency to look for the perfect pass over a shot. Smooth with the puck with good hands. His overall skills are excellent, including passing, puckhandling, vision, attitude, defensive awareness and offensive instincts. Plays with a lot of confidence in his skills.

Plays Like:

Sharks defenseman **Erik Karlsson**



David Jiricek

No. 4-ranked International Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'3"

Weight: 189 lbs

Team: Plzen (CZECHIA)

Birthplace: Klatovy, Czechia

- Member of Czechia's bronze medal-winning team at the 2022 World Championship where he contributed 1-1—2 in 5 GP.
- Played the entire 2021-22 with Plzen in Czechia's top men's league, his second full season with the club, where the defenseman registered 5-6—11 in 29 GP and ranked second on the team with 49 penalty minutes.
- Named one of the Top 3 Players on his team at the 2021 World Junior Championship (1-1—2 in 5 GP) and also represented Czechia at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship.
- Can become just the sixth Czech-born defenseman selected among the top-10 picks in the NHL Draft: **Ladislav Smid** (No. 9 in 2004 by ANA), **Rostislav Klesla** (No. 4 in 2000 by CBJ), **Roman Hamrlik** (No. 1 in 1992 by TBL), **Petr Svoboda** (No. 5 in 1984 by MTL) and **Rick Lanz** (No. 7 in 1980 by VAN).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A big, strong offensive minded defenseman with very good vision and hockey sense. Plays a mature game. Makes the transition from defense to offense quickly and likes to rush with the puck which often results in scoring chances. Makes a solid, quick first pass and has a fine shot with a quick release. A physical presence who is very competitive and plays with a lot of confidence. Strong on his skates.

Plays Like:

Red Wings defenseman **Filip Hronek**



Marco Kasper

No. 5-ranked International Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 183 lbs

Team: Rogle (SWEDEN)

Birthplace: Innsbruck, Austria

- Skated for Austria at the 2022 World Championship (0-2—2 in 7 GP) and was also named captain for his country's entry to the shortened 2022 World Junior Championship.
- Played the majority of the 2021-22 season with Rogle of the Swedish Hockey League where he recorded more points than any under-18 player in the league last season (7-4—11 in 46 GP).
- His father, **Peter**, played 17 years of professional hockey mostly in Austria, where he is a three-time league champion, and for a season with the ECHL's Florida Everblades in 1999-00.
- Can become the sixth Austrian-born player selected in Round 1 of the NHL Draft following **Marco Rossi** in 2020 (No. 9 by MIN), **Andre Burakovsky** in 2013 (No. 23 by WSH), **Marko Dano** in 2013 (No. 27 by CBJ), **Michael Grabner** in 2006 (No. 14 by VAN) and **Thomas Vanek** in 2003 (No. 5 by BUF).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Never stops skating and plays with a lot of energy and intensity. Creates scoring chances with his active and competitive style. Has a very good burst of speed, is strong on his skates and likes to go to the net. Fine vision, effective passer and playmaker with a good shot and quick release. Protects the puck well and plays an effective two-way game. Solid, useful team player with a lot of good hockey in him.

Plays Like:

Capitals forward **Nicklas Backstrom**



Jonathan Lekkerimaki

No. 6-ranked International Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 165 lbs

Team: Djurgarden (SWEDEN)

Birthplace: Tullinge, Sweden

- Starred at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he helped Sweden earn a gold medal, leading all players with 10 assists and 15 points in six games. His standout performance earned him a place on the tournament All-Star team.
- Averaged 1.35 points per game while skating for Djurgarden's junior team in 2021-22 (20-15—35 in 26 GP).
- Appeared in 26 games with the Djurgarden men's team in the Swedish Hockey League in 2021-22 (7-2—9 in 26 GP), where one of his teammates was 2021 top-10 selection **William Eklund** (No. 7 by SJS).
- Helped Sweden earn a bronze medal at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he scored at a goal-per-game rate (5-0—5 in 5 GP).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A goal scorer with a good selection of shots, smooth quick hands and very good puck-handling ability. An explosive offensive minded forward at his best in the offensive zone. A mobile, speedy skater who is active and involved. Creates scoring chances with quick, surprising moves around the net. Plays a competitive game.

Plays Like:

Avalanche forward **Nathan MacKinnon**



Danila Yurov

No. 7-ranked International Skater

Position: Right Wing

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 178 lbs

Team: Magnitogorsk (RUSSIA)

Birthplace: Chelyabinsk, Russia

- Averaged well over a point per game with Magnitogorsk's junior team in 2021-22 with 13-23—36 in 23 games. He ranked eighth on the team in points despite playing at least 12 games fewer than any other teammate in the top 20.
- Also appeared in 21 regular-season and 19 postseason contests with Magnitogorsk's men's team in the KHL in 2021-22.
- A two-time medalist on the international stage helping Russia earn gold at the 2019 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (2-6—8 in 6 GP) and silver at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship, where he tied for fifth in tournament points with 4-7—11 in 7 GP.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Smart, competitive two-way winger with a very good set of tools including skating speed, vision, passing and shot. He is extremely smart and creative on the ice. Makes good decisions and uses his vision to win loose pucks. He is physically strong but not overly aggressive, more of a finesse player. His strong skating and good balance helps him to win battles in all three zones.

Plays Like:

Capitals forward **Evgeny Kuznetsov**



Liam Ohgren

No. 8-ranked International Skater
Position: Left Wing
Shoots: Left
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 187 lbs
Team: Djurgarden Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)
Birthplace: Stockholm, Sweden

- Named Best Forward in Sweden's junior league in 2021-22 after leading all players in goals (33), points (58) and plus-minus (+41) while skating for Djurgarden's junior team.
- Captained Sweden to gold at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he tied for seventh in points with 3-6—9 in 6 GP, including two goals and an assist in the gold medal game to defeat Team USA.
- Appeared in 25 games with the Djurgarden men's team in the Swedish Hockey League in 2021-22 where his teammates included No. 6-ranked international skater **Jonathan Lekkerimaki** and 2021 top-10 selection **William Eklund** (No. 7 by SJS).
- Helped Sweden earn bronze at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he ranked second on his team with 4-3—7 in 5 GP.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

An effective goal scorer who is an explosive skater with speed, acceleration and balance. Great offensive instincts but also knows his defensive duties. Energy player who is a strong checker and wins battles using his intensity in every situation. Very alert in front of the net, steals the puck using his smooth, quick hands and puck-handling ability. Creates scoring chances with his checking and quick surprising moves in the offensive zone. A mature player who has improved a lot during the season. Excellent, hard-working competitor.

Plays Like:

Maple Leafs forward **Auston Matthews**



Lian Bichsel

No. 9-ranked International Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

Height: 6'5"

Weight: 216 lbs

Team: Leksand (SWEDEN)

Birthplace: Olten, Switzerland

- A big, physical defenseman who spent the majority of the 2021-22 season patrolling the blue line for Leksand of the Swedish Hockey League (1-2—3 in 29 GP), while also appearing in 11 games with their junior team (3-4—7 in 11 GP).
- Has represented Switzerland many times on the international stage including the 2021 Under-18 World Championship (1-1—2 in 5 GP) and as captain at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup (0-1—1 in 4 GP).
- Skated for Biel-Bienne's junior team in Switzerland during the 2020-21 season where he ranked sixth in the league among defensemen with 5-23—28 in 45 GP.
- Can become just the second Swiss-born defenseman to be drafted in Round 1, following **Mirco Mueller** in 2013 (No. 18 by SJS).
- Tied for the second-longest wingspan among prospects who participated in the 2022 NHL Scouting Combine presented by adidas (80 inches).
- Speaks German, Swiss-German, English and has been picking up some Swedish while playing in the country during the 2021-22 season.
- Likes to watch and model his game after Predators defenseman and fellow Swiss native **Roman Josi**, Red Wings defenseman **Moritz Seider** and Lightning defenseman **Victor Hedman**.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A big, physically strong defenseman who has improved a lot since taking a regular spot in the Swedish Hockey League. Surprisingly mature game for his age. Moves well for a player of his size. Plays a safe, solid two-way game. Moves the puck well with a quick first pass. A good, honest competitor at his best when he keeps his game safe and simple. A consistent player who plays at the same high level game after game. Solid and at times aggressive in front of the net. Wins battles using his size and vision. Plays with a lot of confidence.

Plays Like:

Predators defenseman **Roman Josi**



Brad Lambert

No. 10-ranked International Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 175 lbs

Team: Pelicans (FINLAND)

Birthplace: Lahti, Finland

- Recorded 4-6—10 in 49 GP during the 2021-22 season while skating in Finland's top men's league, marking his second full season in the Finnish Elite League.
- Helped Finland earn a bronze medal at the 2021 World Junior Championship (1-3—4 in 7 GP).
- His mother, **Heli**, is from Finland and his father, **Ross**, is from Canada and played in the NCAA, WHL, AHL, IHL and multiple years in Europe mostly with the British Hockey League.
- His uncle, **Lane**, is the current head coach of the Islanders.
- Has been writing a "[Draft Diary](#)" for [NHL.com](#) throughout the 2021-22 season.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A talented, skilled forward with creative playmaking ability and excellent passes. An excellent skater combining speed, agility and balance. Sees the ice very well and moves the puck well in all situations. Good work ethic, competes hard in all areas of the ice. Prefers to play a high-skill, finesse game but will not shy away from tough situations. Has all the tools needed to become a star.

Plays Like:

Islanders forward **Mathew Barzal**



Ivan Miroshnichenko

No. 11-ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Omsk Krylia (RUSSIA-2)

Birthplace: Primmorsky Krai, Russia

- A two-time medalist internationally who captained Russia to gold at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he averaged just under two points a game (4-5—9 in 5 GP) and helped his country earn a silver medal at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship where he notched 6-2—8 in 7 GP.
- Spent the majority of the 2021-22 season in a men's league with Omsk Krylia in Russia's second division where he ranked sixth on the team with 10-6—16 in 31 GP.
- Miroshnichenko, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma in March that limited his number of games in 2021-22, has been [cleared to resume his hockey training](#) this summer.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A physically strong energy player with a good burst of speed. Separates himself from opponents with his quickness. Smart playmaker who sees the ice well. Has a good shot that he gets away quickly. A good competitor who protects the puck well and wins battles using strength, intensity and energy.

Plays Like:

Golden Knights forward **Mark Stone**



Elias Salomonsson

No. 12-ranked International Skater

Position: Defense

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 172 lbs

Team: Skelleftea Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)

Birthplace: Skelleftea, Sweden

- Helped Sweden win a gold medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he recorded one assist in five games while accumulating the most penalty minutes of any player. He was also a member of his country's bronze medal-winning entry at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship.
- Skated for Skelleftea's junior team in 2021-22 where he tied for the league lead in goals by a defenseman (11-11—22 in 35 GP).
- Appeared in 10 games for Skelleftea's men's team in the Swedish Hockey League in 2021-22 where his teammates included two-time Stanley Cup champion **Tom Kuhnhackl** and former NHL player **Jayce Hawryluk**.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

Two-way offensive minded defenseman. A stylish player with a good understanding of the game. He is a strong, mobile skater. A smart player who is always looking for space and open ice and likes to shoot whenever possible. Solid, steady team player trusted by his coaches. Seldom out of position. Physically strong but not overly aggressive. Does not shy away from tight situations. His overall game improved a lot during the season.

Plays Like:

Kraken defenseman **Adam Larsson**



Jiri Kulich

No. 13-ranked International Skater

Position: Center

Shoots: Left

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 172 lbs

Team: Karlovy Vary (CZECHIA)

Birthplace: Kadan, Czechia

- Spent the majority of the 2021-22 season with Karlovy Vary in Czechia's top men's league where he posted more points than any junior-aged player in the league last season (9-5—14 in 49 GP).
- At 17 years of age, was named Karlovy Vary's Player of the Game in a contest against Kladno, whose Player of the Game was 49-year-old legend **Jaromir Jagr**. "Indescribable feeling. He first asked me how old I was. Then he told me to do well and keep going," [said Kulich of the moment](#).
- Served as the captain of Czechia in the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where he was named the most valuable player of the tournament after leading all players in goals and tying for third in points (9-2—11 in 6 GP). His nine career tallies rank as second most on Czechia's all-time list at the tournament, trailing only **Jakub Vrana** (14).
- Also served as captain for Czechia at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, where he averaged a point per game (3-1—4 in 4 GP).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A smart offensive-minded energy forward with good skating speed, soft hands, smart passes and a quick shot. Always on the move – never stops skating. Effective on face-offs. Plays with intensity, an alert checker who is involved and active on every shift. A competitive player with excellent work ethic.

Plays Like:

Rangers forward **Chris Kreider**



Alexander Perevalov

No. 14-ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'0"

Weight: 191 lbs

Team: Yaroslavl 2 (RUSSIA-JR.)

Birthplace: Mezhdurechensk, Russia

- Played for Yaroslavl 2 in Russia's junior league during the 2021-22 season where he ranked third on his team in points with 25-25—50 in 42 GP.
- Helped Russia win gold at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup where he produced 3-2—5 in 5 GP.
- His family moved 3,600 kilometers from Mezhdurechensk, on the eastern side of Russia, to Yaroslavl so Perevalov could play in their hockey program.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A powerful skater with good speed, acceleration and balance. A very strong puck-handler in all situations. Has a strong and accurate shot with a quick release. At his best in the offensive zone where he is hard to catch and likes to shoot a lot. Good offensive instincts and a very good understanding of the game.

Plays Like:

Bruins forward **David Pastrnak**



Gleb Trikozov

No. 15-ranked International Skater

Position: Left Wing

Shoots: Right

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 185 lbs

Team: Omsk 2 (RUSSIA-JR.)

Birthplace: Omsk, Russia

- Ranked second in points on Omsk 2 of Russia's junior league in 2021-22 with 23-22—45 in 35 GP.
- Tied for fifth in postseason points by a player in Russia's junior league during the 2021-22 season with 10-8—18 in 13 GP.
- Helped Russia earn a gold medal at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup while producing at a point-per-game rate in the tournament (1-4—5 in 5 GP).

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A colorful player who can skate, shoot and pass. Possesses an excellent set of tools and able to strike when he gets the chance. Has great offensive instincts but also takes good care of his defensive duties. Hard to catch when at full speed and can be a difference-maker in a tight game.

Plays Like:

Former NHL player **Ilya Kovalchuk**



Calle Odelius

No. 16-ranked International Skater
Position: Defense
Shoots: Left
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 185 lbs
Team: Djurgarden Jr. (SWEDEN-JR.)
Birthplace: Nykvarn, Sweden

- Ranked fifth in scoring by a defenseman in Sweden's junior league in 2021-22 with 7-23—30 in 43 GP for Djurgarden's junior team.
- Helped Sweden earn a gold medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship where the blueliner contributed 0-3—3 in 6 GP and also helped his country earn bronze at the 2021 Hlinka Gretzky Cup.
- Posted the best score in the Anaerobic Fitness – Mean Power Output category of the Wingate test at the 2022 NHL Scouting Combine presented by adidas.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A solid defenseman with a low mistake rate. His overall game is very good. He has smooth hands and is a fine playmaker and passer. Excellent, hard-working competitor. Two-way blueliner who likes to join the rush. A good mobile skater with speed and balance. A finesse-type of player who plays with a lot of confidence.

Plays Like:

Stars defenseman **Miro Heiskanen**



PROSPECT PROFILES: GOALTENDERS



Tyler Brennan

No. 1-ranked North American Goaltender

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6'4"

Weight: 184 lbs

Team: Prince George (WHL)

Birthplace: Winnipeg, Man.

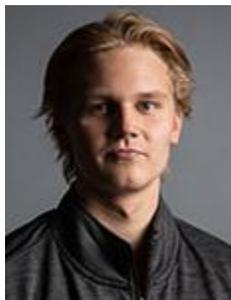
- Tied for fourth in the WHL with four shutouts in 2021-22 while posting 11 wins for the Prince George Cougars (3.58 GAA, .899 SV%).
- Took over as the number one goaltender in Prince George after Penguins prospect **Taylor Gauthier** was traded to the Portland Winterhawks partway through the 2021-22 season.
- Was the third goaltender on Canada's gold medal-winning team at the 2021 Under-18 World Championship and also represented Canada White at the 2019 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.
- Likes to play golf and basketball and enjoys woodworking.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

A good pro-size goalie who has a very calm and relaxed approach while staying composed in the net. Smart at reading passes and tracking one-time plays. Good lateral quickness – capable of making big, timely saves. A very good butterfly that seals the ice and five-hole quickly. Very sound structure to his game with good feet, a well-balanced stance and efficient post-to-post play. Gets back to stop dump ins well and moves the puck properly from behind his net. Very good pro potential.

Plays Like:

Flames goaltender **Jacob Markstrom**



Topias Leinonen

No. 1-ranked International Goaltender

Position: Goalie

Catches: Left

Height: 6'4"

Weight: 214 lbs

Team: JYP Jr. (FINLAND-JR.)

Birthplace: Jyvaskyla, Finland

- Backstopped Finland to a bronze medal at the 2022 Under-18 World Championship with a 3-2-0 record (2.61 GAA, .897 SV%).
- Spent the majority of the 2021-22 season with JYP's junior team where he posted a 9-10-0 record with two shutouts while ranking fifth in the league with a .916 save percentage and seventh with a 2.28 goals-against average.
- His father, **Tero**, was also a goaltender who had a lengthy career in Europe with stops in Finland, Sweden, Czechia, Italy and Germany.

NHL Central Scouting Notebook:

His season was shortened by illness and injuries. Has very good size, a strong and athletic goaltender. Active in the net. Plays the butterfly style and gets down quickly. Covers the net well using his size. Good instinct with a quick glove.

Plays Like:

Former Predators goaltender **Pekka Rinne**